

QA-106
Silk Farm
Centreville vicinity
Private

18th century

The Silk Farm is part of a 350 acre tract patented in 1665 as Barbadoes Hall by Christopher Thomas. The farm owes its present name to the Queen Anne's County Silk Company, which was chartered in 1835 and purchased the farm in 1836. Apparently the venture was a failure for in 1840 the farm was sold to Richard Tilghman Earle and the company disappeared from the records. The 18th century house burned in the 1830's and was rebuilt shortly thereafter. Three of the four exterior walls of the early house survive, whereas the added second story and the interior date from the rebuilding following the fire.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Silk Farm

Barbadoes Hall

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

South side of Md. Route 304 1/2 mile west of Centreville Wharf

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Harry J. Duffey, Jr.

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21617

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #: BP 55

Folio #: 105

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

QA-106

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Silk Farm is located on the south side of Maryland Route 304 about one-half mile west of the bridge from Centreville Wharf to Corsica Neck. The house sits on relatively level ground surrounded by open pasture. It faces to the south, away from the road, with a view of open fields and the wooded banks of Corsica Creek, adjoining the farm to the east. Among the clustered farm buildings to the east of the house are a small log meat house and a very fine 19th century barn.

The house is of brick construction, and has been through several major stages of development. The original house was one-and-one-half stories high, five bays wide, and one room deep. Evidently it burned or was completely gutted in the second quarter of the 19th century, however. The rear wall was completely rebuilt, a second story was added, and the interior was completely renovated. In recent years, a two story brick wing was added to the east end of the north facade, creating an L-plan house.

Despite the later alterations, much of the original building has survived. Although bearing

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

certain similarities to a number of early 18th century brick houses elsewhere in the county, several features distinguish this house as being distinctly unusual.

In general, the brickwork is typical of the first half of the 18th century, consisting of Flemish bond with random glazed headers above a plain watertable and English bond foundation. What is distinctly unusual, however, is the treatment of the center bay on the south facade. This bay breaks forward $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches from the rest of the facade, and presently consists of narrow pilaster-like piers of brick with a wide opening between that has been rebuilt to form the present entrance door. The seams between the brick "pilasters" and the filled-in panel are very even, and the inner corners of the pilasters are highlighted with glazed headers in alternate courses. This same decorative accent may be found on each of the original window openings on this facade, and implies that the seams in the center bay demarcate an original opening. The resulting space is too large for a door, however. The most probable explanation is that the original door was set forward, and was closely flanked by windows

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION

on each side, in somewhat the same manner as the Adams-Kilty House in Annapolis. The projecting center bay also suggests that the house originally may have had some sort of pediment on this facade, though it would undoubtedly have been very restrained, and somewhat at odds with the more vernacular appearance of the chimneys and gables.

The windows on either side of the door were originally lower than at present and the proximity of both the watertable and the original floor level to the ground suggests that the original surface of the surrounding yard was somewhat lower, and that when the house was rebuilt in the 19th century the floor levels and windows were raised.

The west gable is dominated by a large exterior chimney with tiled weatherings and corbeled shoulders. There are no openings in this wall, but a subtle change in brick color in the upper gable suggests that there were originally one or perhaps two small windows flanking the chimney.

The east gable has been partially rebuilt, with repairs made to the northeast corner, and a window has been inserted on the first floor and to the cellar.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.3 DESCRIPTION

The chimney differs somewhat from that on the west gable. It is equally imposing, however, with tiled weatherings, two corbelled shoulders, and drip courses at two different levels.

Little else remains of the early house. In the second period of construction, the three intact walls were used to establish the basic form of the house, but the entire rear wall was rebuilt and the house was raised to two stories using new brick laid in common bond. The floor levels and the windows were raised, and the south doorway was rebuilt to accommodate a wide double door with sidelights and a transom. A three part window, bearing resemblance to a Venetian window, was placed above the south door on the second floor, flanked by a pair of six-over-six windows on each side. Six-over-six sash was also employed on the first floor, on the east gable, and on the rear facade. A sharply pitched gable in the center of the south facade lends a flavor of Gothic Revival to the house. This is complemented by a box cornice with a deep soffit and a very wide fascia board.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.4 DESCRIPTION

The west gable remains relatively unchanged, except that it has been raised to two stories. The cornice returns at the gable and is carried up the gable eave.

The rear facade dates almost entirely to the second period of construction. The early brickwork remains in the lower west end of this facade, but has otherwise been replaced. The two east bays are covered by a recent two story brick wing. The door is located in the center bay, set slightly off center to the east to allow room for the stair. There are two six-over-six windows to the right of the door on each floor, but these are not symmetrically ordered.

The east gable has been partially rebuilt and a six-over-six window has been inserted to the right of the chimney on the first floor. A large cellar window has been cut in below the first floor window. A pair of six-over-six windows flank the chimney on the second floor, and a pair of small four-light windows flank the chimney in the upper gable. The cornice treatment is similar to the west gable, except that the fascia board partially blocks the upper corners of the small gable windows.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.5 DESCRIPTION

The interior dates entirely to the rebuilding that occurred in the second quarter of the 19th century. The floor plan on the first floor consists of a center hall with a single room on either side. Both the proportions of the house and the location of the cellar wall partitions suggest that the original plan was similar if not identical.

The stair rises along the west wall of the hall, with an open string carriage, heavily decorated turned walnut newels, a plain walnut railing, and turned ballusters. The stair ends are finished with scrolled brackets, but the area below the carriage is plastered, not paneled.

The west room is dominated by a large fireplace with an arched opening supported by an iron bar. Although the fireplace was undoubtedly reworked somewhat when the floor level was raised, two interesting features have survived. The rear of the firebox is not squared off, but is laid to form gently curved corners. The flue is constructed with two separated flues serving the same fireplace, a rare feature also found at Bishopton (QA-18), near Church Hill.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.6 DESCRIPTION

The east room is relatively plain, and the fireplace has been blocked up and covered over with plaster. The interior trim is quite simple, and all dates to the mid-19th century. The window and door architraves are flat boards with molded edges and plain corner blocks. A molded baseboard and a chairrail with a molded shelf remains in all three rooms on the first floor. A standard, flattened ogee molding has been used on most of the woodwork as well as the paneled doors.

The second floor consists of a modified center hall plan with a small unheated chamber formed by partitioning the south end of the stair hall. All interior trim and doors date to the 19th century construction period.

There is a cellar below the hall, the east room of the main house and the south end of the wing. Here it is possible to locate evidence of some of the alterations made in the 19th century. Joist holes remain from the earlier floor level, and traces of both the front door and one of the hall doors can be located in the brickwork below the hall. Although the floor framing clearly dates to the 19th century, a

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.7 DESCRIPTION

number of earlier timbers have been reused. Several original joists with beaded edges are visible in the room below the hall, and other beaded material can be found in the interior door frame and the east chimney framing. The east chimney base has a recess in the front face, with the same curved corners found in the west fireplace on the first floor.

In the cellar room below the modern wing, evidence suggests that there was a smaller, earlier wing in this location, but little remains to aid interpretation.

Meat house

There is a small log meat house to the east of the dwelling house. This building is 13 feet long by 12 feet wide. It is constructed of hewn and pit sawn log planks with dovetail corner notching. The planks average $9\frac{1}{2}$ to 12 inches wide and $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 inches thick. These are closely set, leaving narrow cracks which show no evidence of having been chinked or plastered. The gable top plates and two intermediate ceiling joists are notched over the side wall plates, dividing the interior into three bays. The two

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.8 DESCRIPTION

intermediate joists served principally to hang meat, and have lately been sawn off close to the side wall to allow more headroom. They still support a large hewn 3 x 7 plate, which supports four pairs of hewn and pit sawn rafters. These are half-lapped and nailed at the ridge with wrought nails. One set of collars is half-lapped and nailed to each rafter pair, also using wrought nails. The gable studs are mortised into the gable top plate at the bottom and are nailed to the gable rafters with wrought nails.

The exterior has been covered with plain vertical weatherboards secured with machine nails. The upper gables have been sheathed with horizontal siding secured with machine nails. The roof is 40 degrees in pitch, and is covered with wood shingles. Tapered rakeboards and a box cornice with beaded fascia board add a touch of refinement. The door is in the center of the north gable. This is constructed of plain vertical boards nailed to "Z" battens with machine nails. It is hung on heavy wrought strap hinges.

| PERIOD | | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|--|---|--|--|
| PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | | |

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although sharing certain similarities of form and construction with a number of other small 18th century houses in Queen Anne's County, the early brick house at Silk Farm displays several features which are quite unusual and in one case, perhaps unique. The most significant of these are the paired "pilasters" flanking the central door on the south facade. These are probably not true pilasters but may in fact be evidence of a central pediment or some other form of embellishment intended to set off the main entrance. The glazed headers set into alternating rows along the inner corner of each pilaster clearly delineate an opening, as demonstrated by the identical treatment of the window openings, but the precise nature of this feature is not known. This rather formal treatment combined with the symmetrical fenestration is in direct contrast to the

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

8.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

asymmetrical vernacular chimneys and the relatively plain brickwork of the remainder of the building. Unfortunately, a 19th century fire gutted the interior, and the house was raised to two full stories, eliminating virtually all clues to the original interior and the puzzling south entrance. One detail of interest that did survive the fire was a curious divided flue system in the west chimney that is virtually identical to the flue in the northeast chimney at Bishopton (QA-18).

A log plank meathouse is located to the southeast of the house.

see Emory. p. 39

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Emory, Frederick Queen Anne's County, Maryland
 Baltimore, 1950.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Queen Anne's County Historical Society

DATE

10/17/78

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

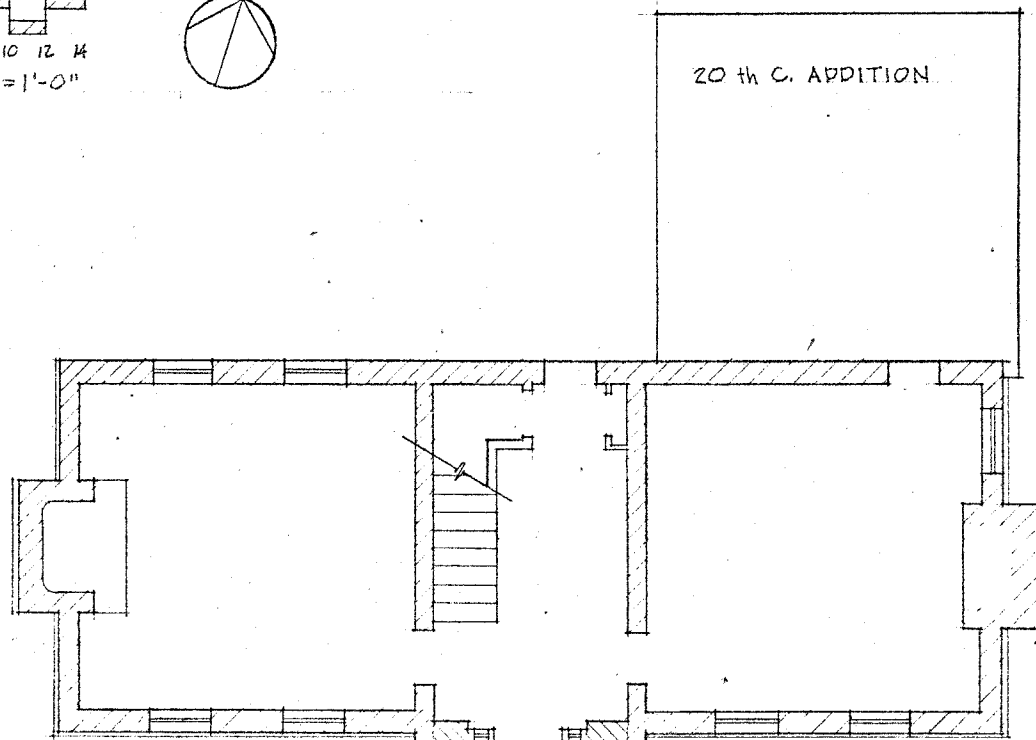
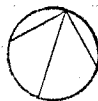
Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 267-1438

0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14
SCALE: $\frac{3}{32}" = 1'-0"$



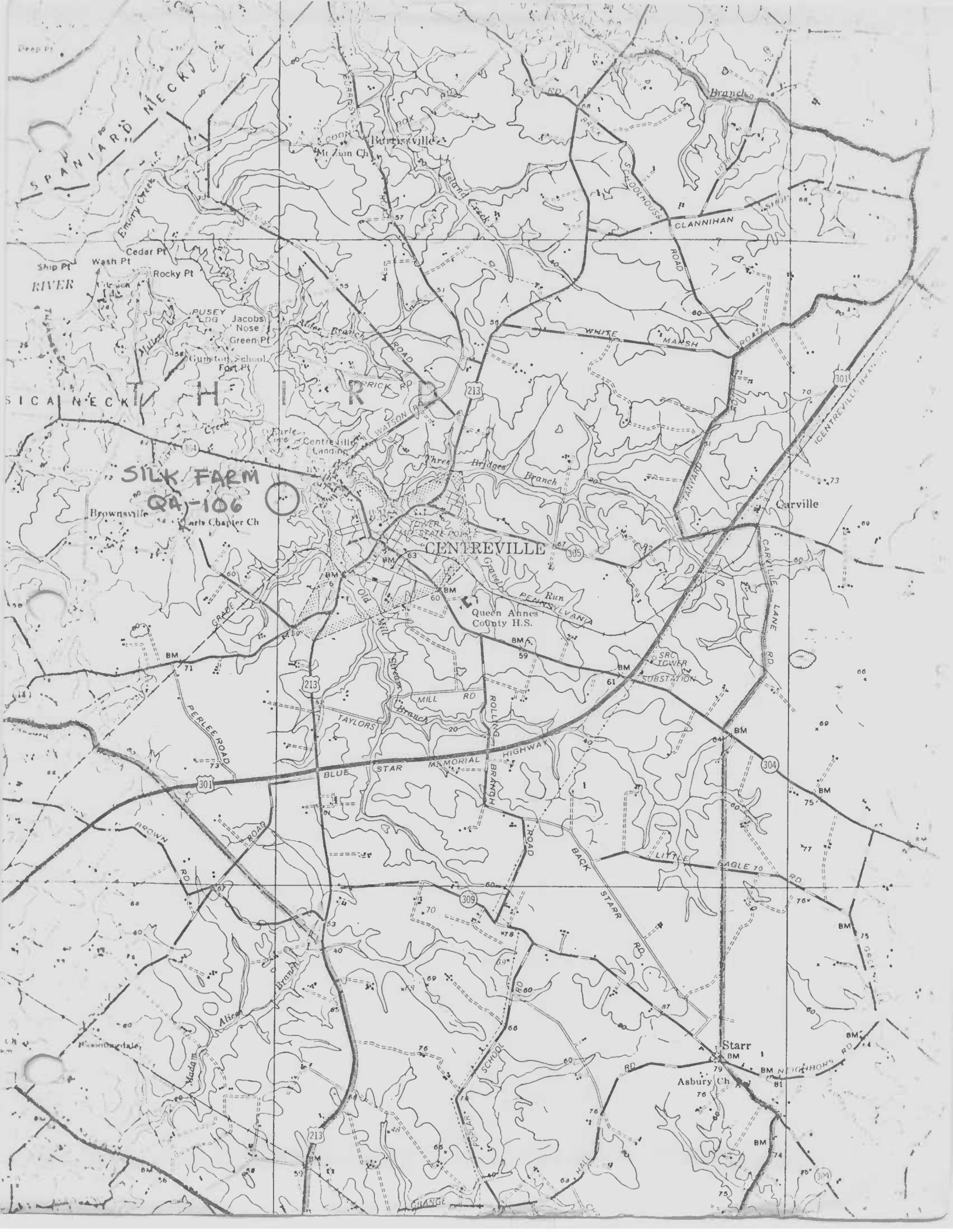
PERIOD I: 18th C.
PERIOD II: C. 1840

ORLANDO RIDOUT V

QA-106

SILK FARM
CENTREVILLE, MARYLAND

JULY 25, 1978



QA-106
Silk Farm

Mary McCarthy
Spring/Summer 2003
Digital color photo on file at MHT





QA-106

Silk Farm
Centreville vicinity
Orlando Ridout V 1979 (MHT)
Front facade, from SE



QA-106

Silk Farm
Centreville vicinity
Orlando Ridout V 1979 (MHT)
East gable



QA-106

Silk Farm
Centreville vicinity
Orlando Ridout V 1979 (MHT)
Log plank meathouse

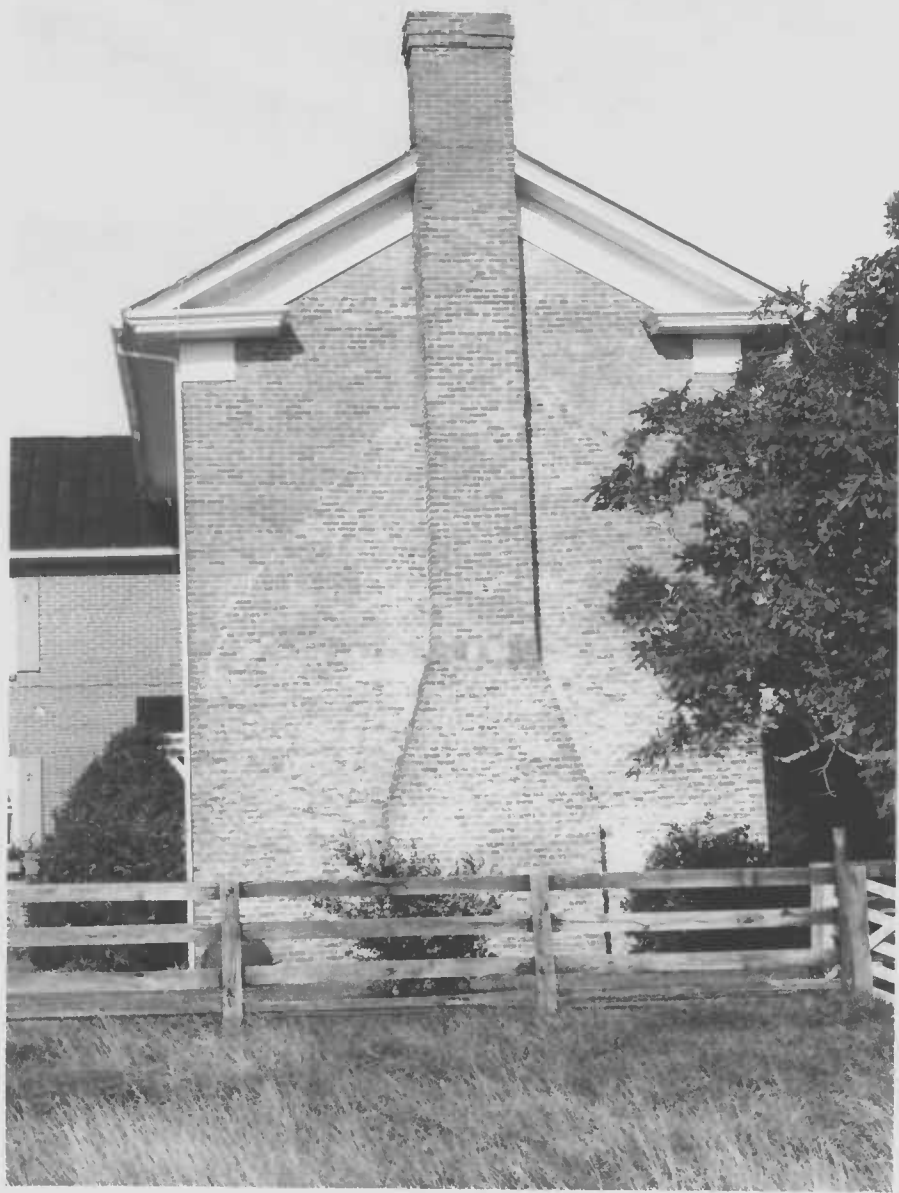


QA-106

Silk Farm

View from NW

ORV 8/1978



QA-106

Silk Farm

West Gable

ORV 8/1978



Silk Farm

Barn from northwest

ORV

8/1978



P.A.-106

Silk Farm #106

April 1974
JWV



Q.A.-106

106

Silk Farm

April 1974
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Q, A - 106

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Silk Farm

April 1974
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Silk Farm

April 1974
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